



Bill Finch
Mayor

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

**INFORMAL COMPETITIVE PROPOSAL
(Call to Artists)
ICP [insert number]
CITY CANVASES BRIDGEPORT – PHASE II**



David M. Kooris
Director, Office of Planning &
Economic Development

INTRODUCTION

The City of Bridgeport is entering Phase II of City Canvases Bridgeport, a project supported by the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of the Arts' (COA) City Canvas Initiative. The City of Bridgeport was a recipient of a City Canvas grant which has been supplemented with matching funds provided by the City of Bridgeport and the Bridgeport Downtown Special Services District.

The objective of Phase II is to commission a long-term temporary mural-based work of art for the Bridgeport Train Station. The goal of Phase II is to enliven the experience of all users of the Bridgeport Train Station and to enrich the atmosphere of this valuable public facility. The train station serves as the front door to the City of Bridgeport for many regular and visiting users. Currently, the train station does not include any public art, and although it is kept in a state of good repair and well-maintained, it is not an inspiring building—from an architectural nor interior design standpoint. The exterior of the building is clad in brutalist concrete and the interior is varying shades of gray concrete surfaces with a sparse number of windows and less use of colored surfaces. City Canvases Bridgeport aims to transform the pedestrian tunnel at the station (see Figure 1 below) from its current state into a vibrant corridor of color, energy and message that visually welcomes all to Bridgeport.

Figure 1 – Bridgeport Train Station Tunnel



Artists should consider how the space is experienced. Travelers move continuously through the space as they proceed between the station and the train. It is a space experienced by travelers of all ages, first time visitors and frequent users; therefore, the artwork must be of a nature which engages a diverse audience and creates a positive experience moving within the space.

The artwork must:

- Be mural-based, paint on wall surface (not ceiling or floor);
- Be durable and able to withstand a heavily used public environment; and
- Meet ADA and fire code requirements (Class A Interior Wall Finish) and artists must provide material specs with their proposal.

Further, while the City does not seek to restrict creativity, all proposed artworks shall be:

- Original works only;
- Positive and welcoming in nature;
- Forward thinking, alluding to the aspirations of an urban community;
- Contain no nudity, profanity, product/service endorsement, political or hate-based content of any kind;
- Produced using bright, vibrant colors;

The City of Bridgeport reserves the right to select none (0), one (1) or more than one (>1) Artist to provide the required services. The City of Bridgeport is an Equal Opportunity Employer, and encourages Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs) to submit their qualifications.

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Digital (.pdf file-format only) submissions are acceptable: Email subject line shall read "City Canvases Bridgeport – Phase II" and all submission requirements (Letter of Interest, Statement of Qualifications, List of Examples, Proposal Narrative, and Proposal images/sketch-ups) shall be included in one (1) attached .pdf file formatted to print at 8.5"x11". Email submissions that do not meet these requirements will not be accepted.

Hard copy submissions are also acceptable: Mail/deliver one (1) clearly marked original and five (5) copies of separate proposals for City Canvases Bridgeport to Ben Henson, Office of Planning and Economic Development at **999 Broad St. 2nd Floor, Bridgeport, CT 06604**. Envelopes shall be marked "City Canvases Bridgeport – Phase II". The City of Bridgeport will not assume responsibility for the misdirection delayed delivery of envelopes not properly marked.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 2:00 PM on September 28, 2012

NOTE: This is a delivery deadline (not a postmark deadline). All submissions received after the deadline will be rejected.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Each submission shall include each of the following:

- Letter of Interest that includes the Artist's contact information (telephone number and email address);
- Statement of Qualifications explaining and supporting the Artist's credentials as best selection;
- Representative list of examples of similar prior public art installations, which also includes:
 - o Name of Client (municipality);
 - o Municipal contact persons and contact information;
 - o Description of projects;
 - o Dates of service; and
 - o Respondent's team members involved with the projects.
- Proposal Narrative explaining:
 - o Proposed artwork;
 - o Price proposal (not to exceed \$25,000); and
 - o Timeline proposal including number of hours expected for installation.
- Image(s), sketch(es) or mock-up(s) of proposed artwork .

Any information or materials submitted as a response to this Call to Artists shall become the property of the City of Bridgeport and will not be returned for any reason. All submitted materials will be available for public review. The City of

Bridgeport is committed to full compliance with the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act (CGS §1-200 et. seq.) The City of Bridgeport expressly retains the right to disclose the name of any or all Respondents, their submissions, and any other information that is pertinent to the selection of the Respondent. It is the sole and exclusive responsibility of Respondents to exclude proprietary information, trade secrets, or other information that the public disclosure of which may stand to cause harm to such party.

TIMELINE

NOTE: the timeline is aggressive and interested artists must be able to meet the timeline as outlined.

9/13	Call for Artists issued
9/28	Submission deadline (2:00 PM)
10/1-10/5	Selection Committee Review Process
10/2-10/5	Notifications sent
10/8	Project commencement
10/31	Project completion

Dates may be subject to change at the City of Bridgeport's sole discretion.

SELECTION PROCESS

The Project Manager will review submissions for compliance with the requirements outlined above. Submissions meeting the requirements will be evaluated by the Selection Committee, organized and convened by the Bridgeport Arts + Cultural Council (BACC). The Selection Committee will evaluate submissions based on the criteria outlined below.

It is important for artists to prepare presentations with strong written and visual information to provide committee members with a thorough understanding of the proposed artwork. If an artist is invited to present a proposal to the selection committee, it will be the responsibility of the artist to inform the BACC, in advance, of necessary accommodations due to a disability. Not all accommodations will be possible.

The City of Bridgeport may at any time prior to the selection of an Artist and entering into final contract may reject any and all proposals and cancel this Call to Artists, without liability therefore. Further, regardless of the number and quality of proposals submitted, the City shall under no circumstances be responsible for any Respondent's cost, risk and/or expenses associated with any aspect of the submission process. The City accepts no responsibility for the return of successful or unsuccessful proposals. This Call to Artists in no way obligates the City to select an Artist or to enter into a contract with the selected Artist, and the City may in its sole discretion reject any and all proposals. The City also expressly reserves the right in its sole discretion to amend any of the various dates set forth herein.

SELECTION COMMITTEE

Submissions will be reviewed by the Selection Committee which will be comprised of the following participants:

- Project Manager
- Representative from City of Bridgeport, Public Facilities
- Representative from CT Department of Transportation
- Representative from Bridgeport Downtown Special Services District
- Representative from the Bridgeport Arts + Cultural Council

A Representative from the CT Department of Economic and Community Development may be present to facilitate the meeting of the Selection Committee, and an arts professional may assist as a peer reviewer.

SELECTION CRITERIA: 90 (+/-) POINT SYSTEM

The Selection Committee will employ the following selection criteria in reviewing all qualifications in order to develop its recommendation:

- **Evidenced experience executing large-scale public art installations (20 points):** The City of Bridgeport seeks proposals from qualified professional Artists with demonstrable experience in executing successful large-scale public installations.
- **Creativity, inspiration and overall quality of proposed artwork (20 points):** The City seeks proposals of artwork that welcomes and connects users to Bridgeport in a unique way. Artwork should evidence creativity and a well thought-out message to be conveyed.
- **Welcoming, positive, warm nature of proposed artwork and any associated message(s) (20 points):** This transformative public art installation will be seen daily by hundreds of repeat and unique visitors. It is intended to uplift the general spirit of these users; welcome them to Bridgeport; and inspire pride of place. While there are darker facets of life that warrant artistic exploration and celebration, this project seeks artwork and a message of a welcoming, positive, warm, bright and vibrant nature—both in content and color.
- **Current capacity of Artist(s), and ability to execute installation within project timeframe (15 points):** Artist shall demonstrate its experience with projects of similar scope and available capacity of key personnel required to perform the work within the required timeline (Project completion: October 31, 2012).
- **Proposed treatment of surface and materials/durability of artwork (10 points):** The surfaces include cinder block wall surfaces of an underground pedestrian walkway tunnel. The proposed artwork shall be mural-based (paint on wall surface, digital production on velum, etc.) that is durable and able to withstand a heavily used public environment.
- **Local-ness of Artist(s) (5 pts):** City Canvases Bridgeport is open to all Connecticut-based Artists. Artists must be a Connecticut resident, operate a business registered in the State of Connecticut or create artwork in a Connecticut studio. Further priority, in the form 5 selection criteria points, will be awarded to Bridgeport Artists defined as any Artist residing in the City of Bridgeport, operating and business in the City of Bridgeport or creating artwork at a studio in the City of Bridgeport.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

The selected Artist(s) shall provide professional public art creation, fabrication and installation services, which will result in the creation of a new work of public art in the pedestrian tunnel at the Bridgeport Train Station. The public art installation will be a transformative artwork welcoming hundreds of regular and visiting users to the City each day.

The selected Artist(s) will be responsible for all of the following:

- Effectively communicating the proposed artwork to the selection committee;
- Adhering to proposal and any subsequent changes resulting from selection committee input;
- Installing artwork in its entirety, within timeframe and budget;
- Procuring and maintaining adequate insurance coverage; and
- Ensuring appropriate treatment of all surfaces and durability of the artwork (eg graffiti coating of a painted mural), and durability of the artwork.

The selected artwork shall be:

- Original;
- Be mural-based, paint on wall surface (not ceiling or floor);
- Durable and able to withstand a heavily used public environment;
- Positive and welcoming in nature;
- Free of any nudity, profanity, product/service endorsement, political or hate-based content of any kind;
- Produced using bright, vibrant colors; and
- Meet ADA and fire code requirements (Class A Interior Wall Finish) and artists must provide material specs with their proposal.

BUDGET

The total budget is \$25,000, which shall cover all costs associated with the creation, fabrication and installation of the artwork, including, but not limited to: artist and assistant fees, including surface prep, insurance, equipment, materials, etc. Artists must consider the limited hours the space is accessible for this work and the possibility for off hour installation.